

A REMEMBRANCE OF THE PAST...

A RECOGNITION BY THE PRESENT

HISTORICAL GUIDE
TO
PICATINNY ARSENAL

US ARMY ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
DOVER, NEW JERSEY

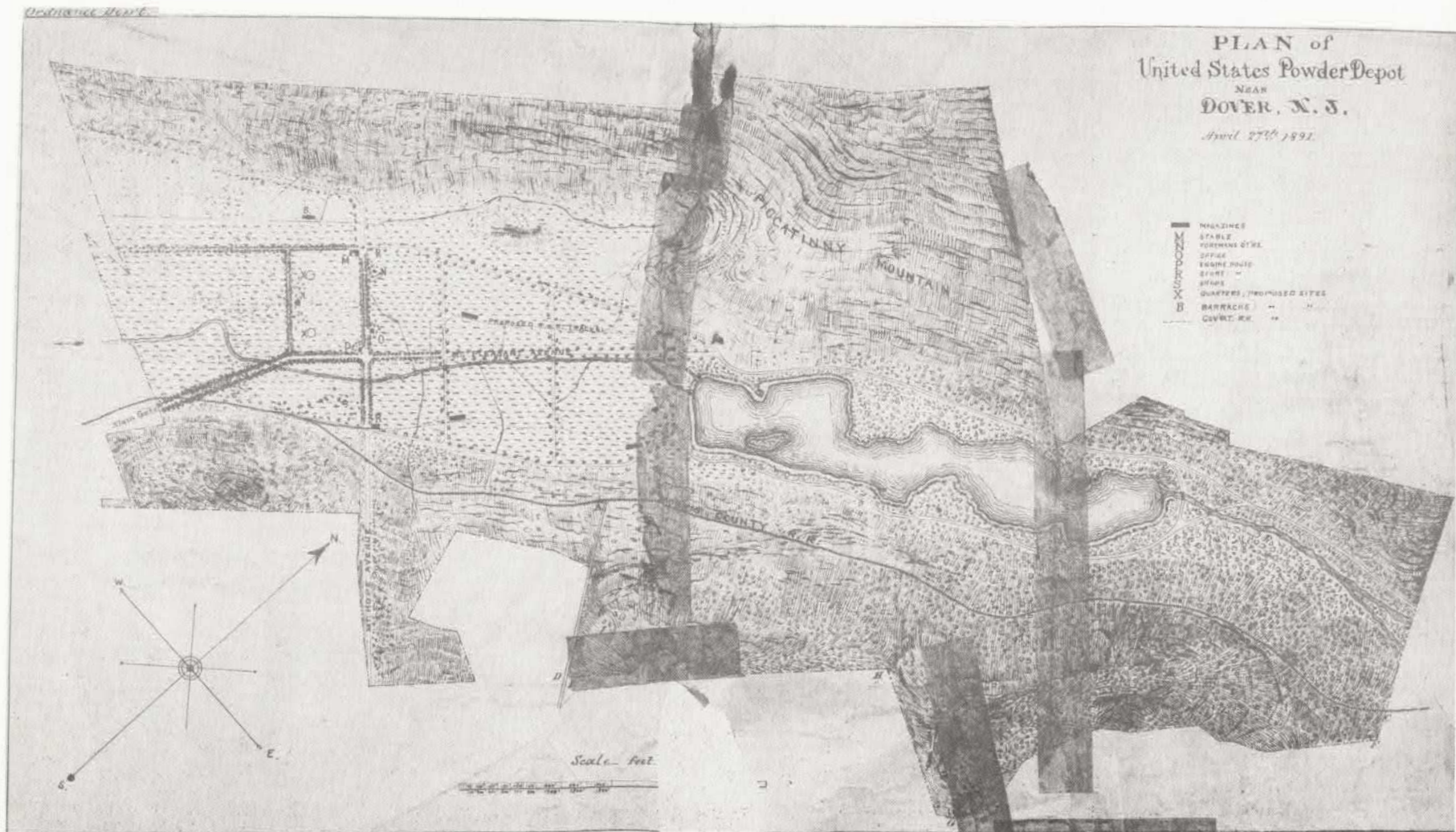


Centennial II Edition

PLAN of
United States Powder Depot
NEAR
DOVER, N. J.

April 27th 1891.

MAGAZINES
 STABLE
 FOREMAN'S OFFICE
 OFFICE
 ENGINE HOUSE
 STORE
 STAGE
 QUARTERS, PROPOSED SITES
 BARRACKS
 COVERT. RR.



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Yesteryear's Winter Scene...
Yesteryear's Main Entrance

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Preface

This booklet is not intended as a narrative history, but as a historical guide to Picatinny Arsenal, the site of the US Army Armament Research and Development Center (ARDC). As such, this publication highlights the events, places and personalities which contribute to this historical awareness.

Historical Office
February 1984

Third Edition

Note

History is not only what happened a hundred years ago, but what happened a moment before.

History is that which is significant when it relates to the time and place of the onlooker. For example, what is printed on the front page of the New York Times on any given day is usually different from what is featured on the first page of a local newspaper. Yet both record revelation.

So it is with Picatinny Arsenal. A graceful home built of a stone endemic to this area has an intrinsic value along with a modern office building named to memorialize a dedicated soldier and an obsolete industrial plant with an interesting design deserves mention along with a decorative wrought iron gate built the previous century.

Names of this Installation

Before this installation was designated as a War Department post, it was suggested it be called the "Atlantic Depot" (which is why this name, although never officially used, appears on some early documents). However, this site was designated the "Dover Powder Depot" by Special Order No. 189 of 6 September 1880, which also assigned Major F. H. Parker as its first commander.

Four days later, by Special Order No. 193 of 10 September 1880, prompted by Major Parker, the name was changed to the "Piccatinny Powder Depot."

In June 1893, it was changed to the "United States Powder Depot," a name retained until October 1907 when it was redesignated "Picatinny Arsenal."

On 31 January 1977, Picatinny Arsenal became the headquarters site of the US Army Armament Research and Development Command; on 1 July 1983 it became the US Army Armament Research and Development Center, part of the US Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command whose headquarters is at Rock Island, IL.



Maj. F. H. Parker, Ord. Dept., U. S. A., First Commanding Officer, Picatinny Arsenal.



Major J.P. Farley
Assumed command 21 April 1883

In July 1883, three years after a powder depot was established by Congress on this site, Major J.P. Farley, the second commander of this post, wrote to the Chief of Ordnance in Washington, DC, of his intention to construct "an attractive gate" for the main entrance. Two years later, in September 1885, Major Farley sent to "Messrs, JB & JM Cornell, New York City, a check on Asst Treasurer, US at New York for \$475 for--wrot iron double & single gates furnished this depot." These unusually designed portals came to be known as the "Cannon Gate."

This "Main Entrance" photograph was taken in 1903 and the automobile is a same-year Cadillac.

Main Gate to the Cannon Gate

The "Main Entrance" in the photograph is not the Main Gate of today. In 1941, Picatinny Arsenal expanded, which brought its present main entrance to Route 15, near Interstate 80, a distance of about 1.5 miles.

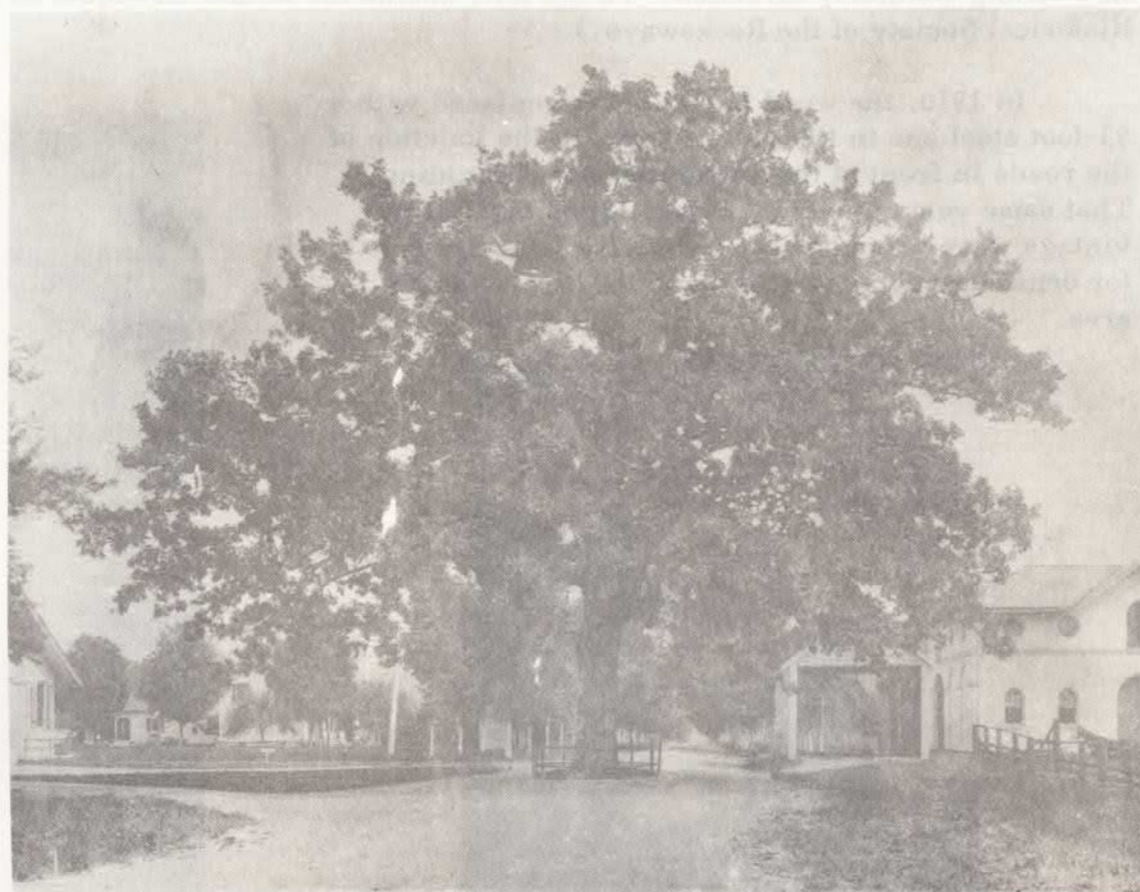
In the area between the two gates was the settlement of "Spicertown," an unincorporated village in Rockaway Township. Some of these original houses are still being used as living quarters for military personnel. The settlement was named after the Spicer family which owned most of the land in this area. A reminder of the now vanished "Spicertown" is the first street sign after entering this military reservation: "Spicer Avenue."



Main Entrance.

Main Streets

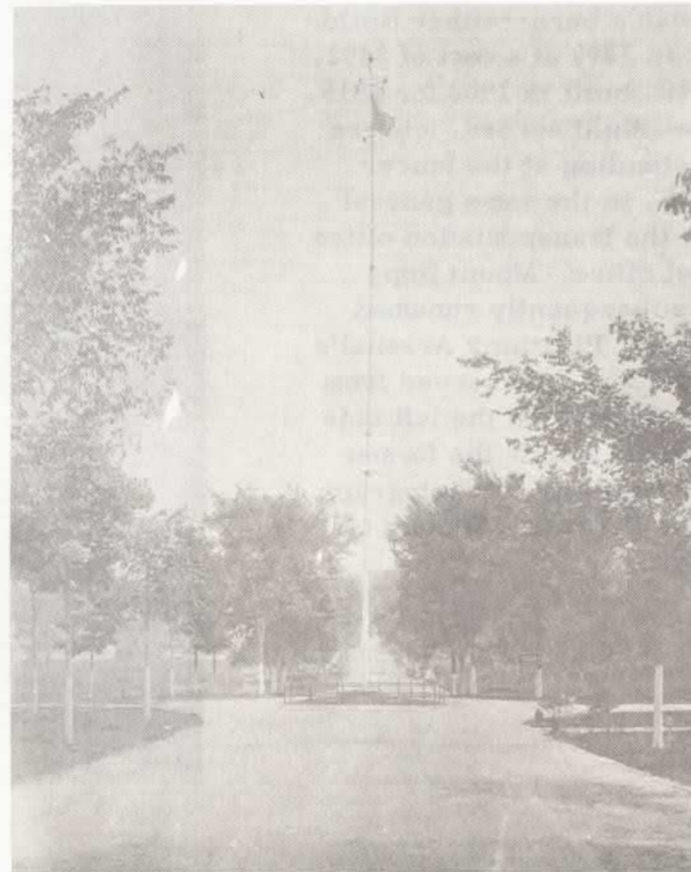
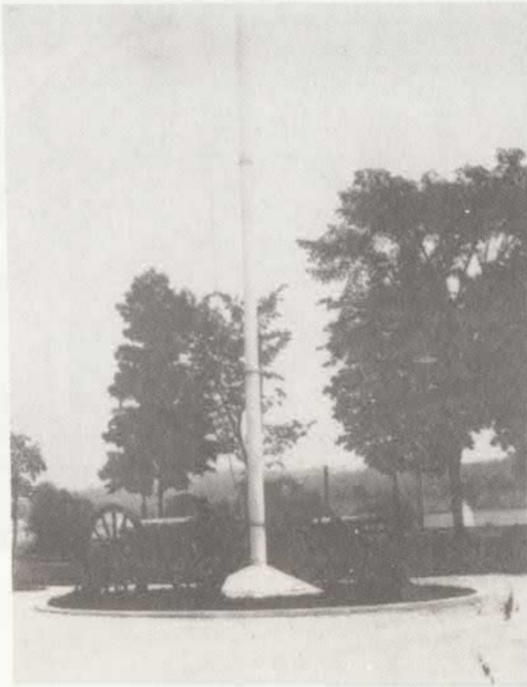
If you were on the main thoroughfares (Parker Road and Farley Avenue) of this post, this would have been the view on 21 August 1905. The huge oak tree dominating the photograph is in the center of what was then called "Mount Hope Avenue." Continuing east on the same street, beyond the gates of then Picatinny Arsenal, is the small settlement of Mount Hope, part of Rockaway Township. The structure to the right was a barn--either Building 16, built in 1899 at a cost of \$492, or Building 12, built in 1902 for \$615. In the extreme right corner, a horse can be seen standing at the fence. Coincidentally, in the same general area today is the transportation office and the travel office. Mount Hope Avenue was subsequently renamed for Major Farley, Picatinny Arsenal's second commander, who served from 1883 to 1887. Today, on the left side of the same street stands the former Headquarters building. (Photograph donated by the Historical Society of the Rockaways.)



Main Streets

On what was then Mount Pleasant Avenue in what was then the "United States Powder Depot," this would have been the view looking east in August 1905. Note that the trunks of the trees have all been uniformly whitewashed, the road was unpaved and (according to the directional indicators on top of the pole) the wind seemed to be blowing in a strong southerly direction. To the left, stands the former Headquarters building. (Photograph donated by the Historical Society of the Rockaways.)

In 1910, the wood flagpole was replaced with a 93-foot steel one in the center green in the junction of the roads in front of the "Administration" building. That same year, two 6-lb. bronze guns of Civil War vintage were brought here from Rock Island Arsenal for ornamentation and still stand in the proximate area.

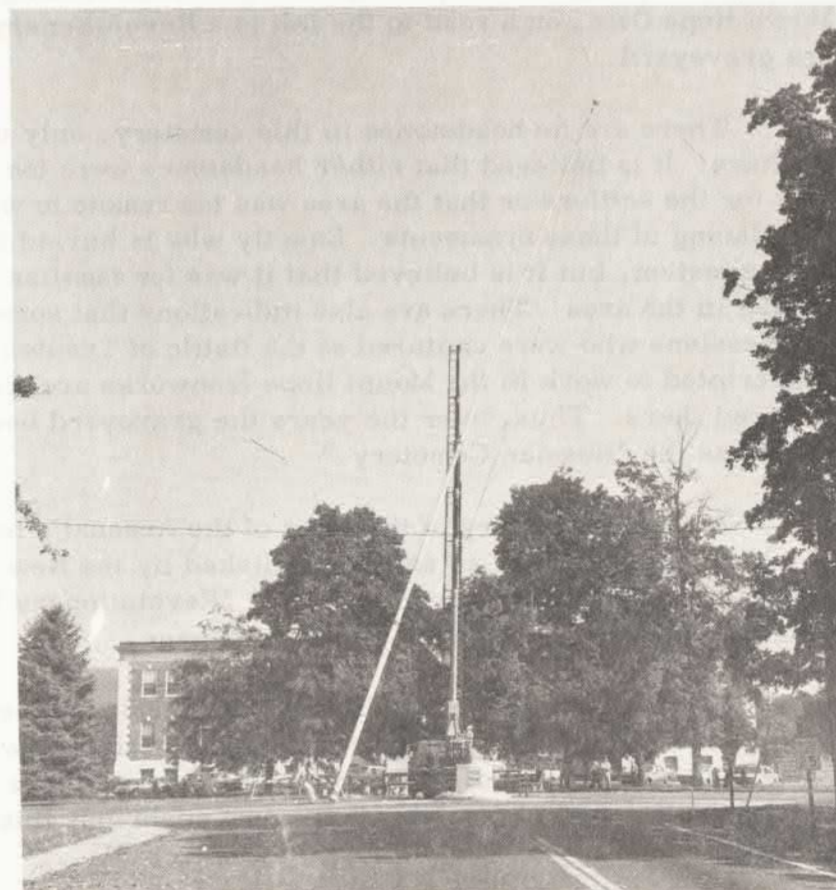


Main Streets

With the tremendous increase in vehicular traffic after World War II, it became necessary to construct a stand upon which a guard would direct traffic during the rush hours. However, the burden of traffic became such that the flagpole became an obstacle and it was decided to move it back into the small park area directly in front of Building 151. This was done in 1970, as can be seen from this photograph taken during the moving operation.

After the establishment of ARRADCOM in 1977, other improvements in the immediate area was the widening and resurfacing of the macadam road and the placement of curbs (autumn 1978). The roadbed under the original concrete was in such bad shape that the contractor had to pump a hot tar mixture under the concrete to repair it.

Traditional on all military posts, and an inspiring sight particularly in warm weather, is the daily sunset flag-lowering ceremony. Across from the former Picatinny Arsenal and ARRADCOM Headquarters building (right foreground), at precisely 4:59 p.m., a World War II 105mm field piece boomed into the quiet air, bluish-white smoke wafted over the area and a bugle sounded "Retreat." Then the flag of the United States of America was lowered into the arms of the waiting guards and, when the six-minute ceremony was over, all became silent again.



Mount Hope Gate Area

Ascending the steepening Farley Avenue leading to the Mount Hope Gate, on a road to the left is a Revolutionary War era graveyard.

There are no headstones in this cemetery, only stone markers. It is believed that either headstones were too expensive for the settlers or that the area was too remote to warrant the placing of these ornaments. Exactly who is buried there is in question, but it is believed that it was for families who settled in the area. There are also indications that some of the Hessians who were captured at the Battle of Trenton and conscripted to work in the Mount Hope Ironworks are also interred there. Thus, over the years the graveyard became known as the "Hessian Cemetery."

A succinct history of this part of the Arsenal's heritage is told in the reprint of an article published by the New Jersey Historical Commission Newsletter of the "Revolutionary War Origins of Picatinny Arsenal" on the next page.

Prior to May 1977, a visitor to the "Hessian Cemetery" would see a painted sign on approaching this site. However, since then a monument of stone and metal--placed there as part of the Bicentennial celebration--now enshrines this ground.



Revolutionary War Origins of Picatinny Arsenal

—by Manny Myers

Picatinny Arsenal, a major department of the Army ordnance installation in the northwestern part of the state, near Dover, traces its origin to the personalities and events of the American Revolution.

Rich in iron ore and water resources, from early colonial days this region flourished with mines, forges, furnaces and ironworks. General Washington found the products of the iron industry of such priority to his logistics that he made it a point to survey the ironworks in Morris County in 1777, which he numbered at "between 80 and 100."

The Middle Forge

In 1749 Jonathan Osborn(e) purchased a tract at the foot of Picatinny Peak and erected the "Middle Forge." ("Picatinny" is interpreted as a Lenape-Pequot Indian word meaning "the smaller end face of the endless hills" or "peak with broken rocks and cliffs," both graphic descriptions of the rock formation in front of Picatinny Lake.)

Colonel Jacob Ford, Sr., acquired the land on which the Middle Forge stood and in 1773 deeded it to his son, Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. It was the same Ford family whose mansion in Morristown was to become Washington's headquarters from December 1779 to June 1780.

John Jacob Faesch

A year earlier one of the dynamic personalities of the Revolutionary War in Morris County, John Jacob Faesch, ironmaster, came into this picture.

Born in 1729 in Basel, Switzerland, Faesch came to America in 1764, under contract to the London Company to manage its properties in northern New Jersey. After a dispute with his employer in 1772, he moved to Mount Hope to oversee the construction of ironworks for the Ford family. A year later he leased the tract, which included the Mount Hope furnace and the Middle Forge.

When the struggle with Great Britain began, Faesch ardently supported the patriots' cause. While he left no papers, the letters of Charles and Joseph Hoff, superintendents of the neighboring Hibernia Ironworks, contain direct evidence that he was making ordnance—"cannon, shot, bar iron, shovels, axes, and other iron implements for the Revolutionary Army"—in the months before American Independence was declared. Subsequently Faesch was harassed by Tory raiding parties, which made several attempts to destroy his property.



Importance of Mount Hope Complex

Because of the importance of the Mount Hope complex to the Continental army General Washington visited Faesch there several times. On one visit he discussed assigning Hessian prisoners to the ironworks. The New Jersey Legislature passed an act in October 1777 exempting fifty of his workers from militia duty (except in case of British invasion).

Faesch became an active citizen of his new country. He served as county judge, justice of the peace and proprietor of the Morris Academy. In 1787 he was selected as a delegate to the State Convention to ratify the Federal Constitution. He moved to Old Boonton, died in 1799 and was buried in Morristown.

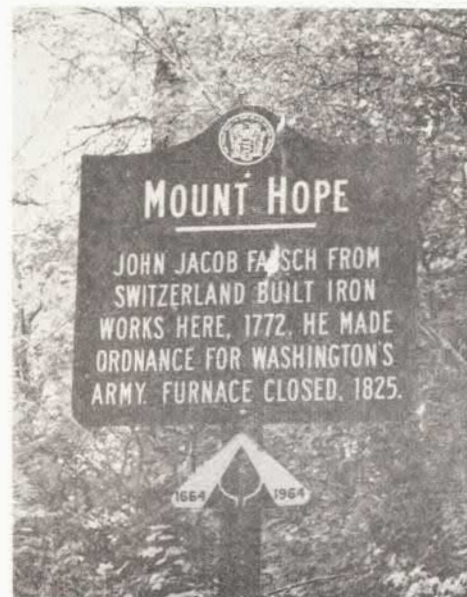
In March 1880, after a study by the War Department, Congress appropriated funds to purchase land in Rockaway Township, including the site of the Middle Forge, for an Army powder depot.

Today, monuments to this Revolutionary War heritage remain: a quarter-mile before the installation's Mount Hope Gate is a stone house Ford built and Faesch occupied; in the same area within the government reservation is a Hessian cemetery; and the forge and tools used at the Middle Forge are on display near the Arsenal Commander's home. □

Dr. Myers is Arsenal Historian, Picatinny Arsenal.

Mount Hope Connection

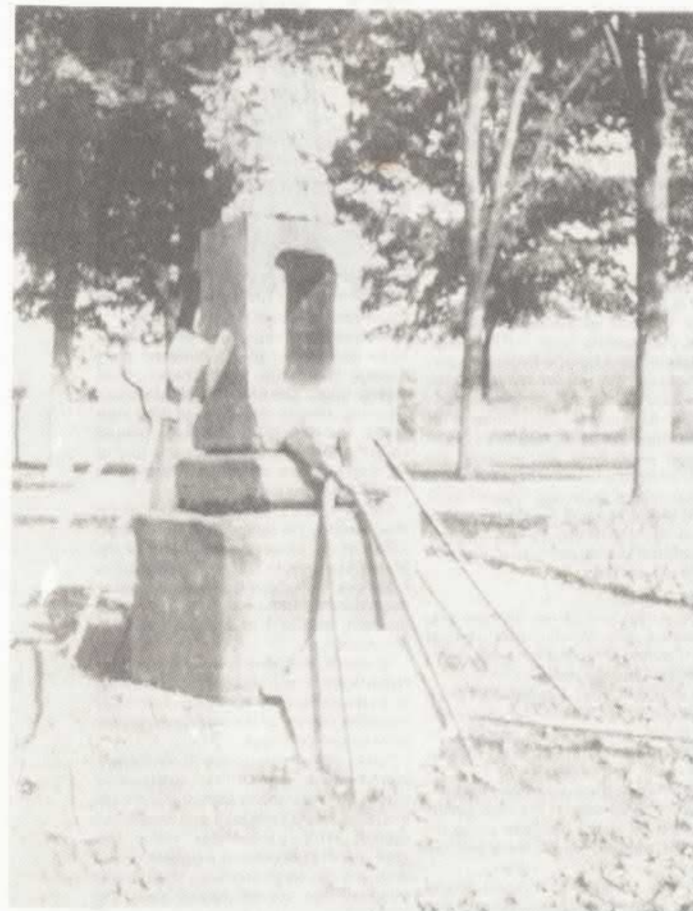
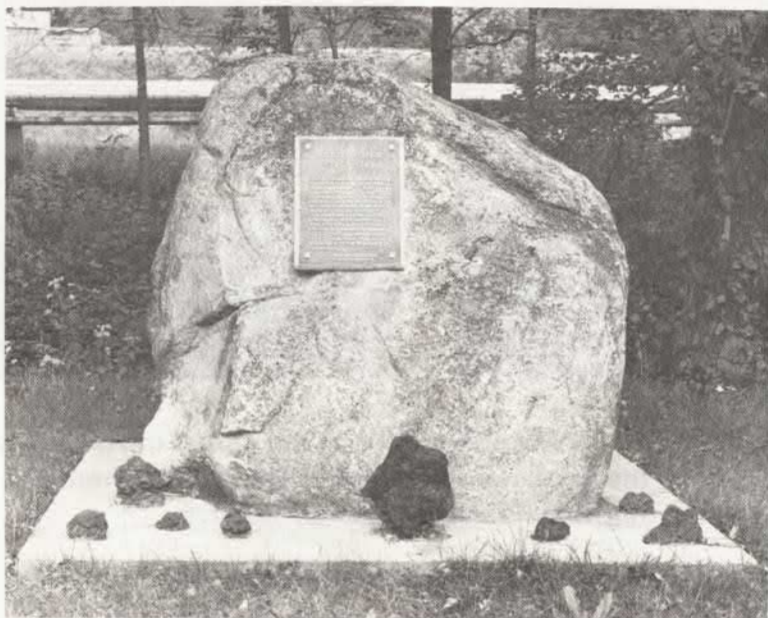
As explained in the article, Mount Hope is an integral part of the heritage of this federal reservation. However, that settlement is outside this Army installation, in Rockaway Township, part of Morris County. To memorialize these contributions to the Revolutionary War, two historic markers were placed in the area: one on the Mount Hope Road about a quarter-mile from Interstate 80 and the second stands just below the original home built by Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. on that same thoroughfare which leads to the Mount Hope Gate.



In recognition of his accomplishments to the cause of American independence, in the area near the Mount Hope settlement on this post is a thoroughfare named "Faesch Road."

The Middle Forge

As explained in the article, "The Revolutionary War Origins of Picatinny Arsenal," this post traces its lineage to the Mount Hope Ironworks. As a memorial to that heritage, the original forge and tools were recovered from the Middle Forge tract and preserved as a display. In 1975, two Picatinny Arsenal technicians--in connection with the Bicentennial celebration--recreated what they estimated to be the drawings of the original ironworks which was on this government reservation. The result was a model of the Middle Forge works as it might have appeared in 1749. A bronze plaque now stands on the original site near Building 333 and the antique forge and tools are on display diagonally across from the former Headquarters building. The commemorative plaque at the original forge site is mounted on pieces of conglomerate, which include slag and scoria (impure iron fragments) in the foundations of the monument.



Forge used in 1750.

Photograph of the Middle Forge display with its original caption. The date it was taken is unknown. Through the years, the Middle Forge display came to be the unofficial symbol of Picatinny Arsenal.

Photograph of the model of the bloomery at Middle Forge, which was located at the base of the dam at Picatinny Lake.
A "bloomery" converted iron ore to wrought iron. The model was fabricated as part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration.



Jonathan Osborn(e), who built the original ironwork in 1749, named it the Middle Forge because he located it on Green Brook Pond midway between the site of two other forges: Mount Pleasant and Lake Denmark.



"Picatinny Peak in June"

The Arsenal lies in the valley of the Green Pond Brook and is surrounded by hills. The name of this government reservation was inspired by Picatinny Peak, a mountain that rises abruptly from the floor of the valley. The name--originally spelled "Piccatinny"--is of Indian origin as are many of the place names in Morris County. (In fact, Rockaway Township, which abuts this government installation is itself named for a tribe known as the "Rockawaks.") Although of undisputed Indian derivation, the word "Picatinny" has never been precisely translated. It was thought derived from a combination of the Lenape and Pequot languages. "Pikka" in Pequot literally means "rock rent asunder" and "Tinny" is Lenape for "landmark" or "hill." Combining the words yields "peak with broken rocks and cliffs." Another interpretation of Picatinny was "water by the hill" as strictly a Lenape word, given to the brook flowing under the peak. A third translation was "the smaller end face of the endless hills"--which is a graphic, almost poetic, description because Picatinny Peak is part of a series of hills which stretch to the New York State border. This scene was photographed in June 1919 by R. M. Lacey. Evidently, he thought Picatinny Peak as much a landmark as did the Indians, for he had made the photograph into a souvenir postcard titled "Picatinny Peak in June."

Picatinny Lake

A prime reason for the many iron forges in this part of New Jersey in colonial days, besides the plentiful supply of ore and wood, was an abundance of water. Therefore, in 1879 when the Ordnance Department was searching for a suitable location for an Army power depot it was attracted to an area "about three miles from Rockaway, in the Green Mountain or Middle Forge Valley." For there "in the valley of Green Pond Brook, a tributary of the Rockaway River... a beautiful lake one hundred acres in extent occupies a central point, with Picatinny Peak frowning down on it, and waters of Green Pond and Denmark Pond flowing through it." Although it was subsequently to have industrial structures along its shores, the view of the surrounding area from Picatinny Peak, with Picatinny Lake as its centerpiece, is one of the impressive scenic views here.

In this photograph, the date of which is unknown, the tranquil aura of Picatinny Lake is forever preserved.



Picatinny Lake

An area of about 110 acres.

Recreation

"The lake, within the boundaries of the reservation, provides excellent fishing, swimming, boating, and skating in season, which are taken advantage of by the residents of the reservation and their guests. The woods and streams are inhabited with deer, muskrats, rabbits and hedgehogs, and mink, thus providing hunting and trapping in season. These facts especially surprise the new-comer, who hardly expects to find such conditions but forty miles from metropolitan New York. Old timers recalled the killing of a bobcat some years ago, when, on March 9, 1931, one was killed by stoning on Buffington (the East) Road." So wrote Captain J. A. Rogers, Jr., Ordnance Dept., author of an early history of Picatinny Arsenal.

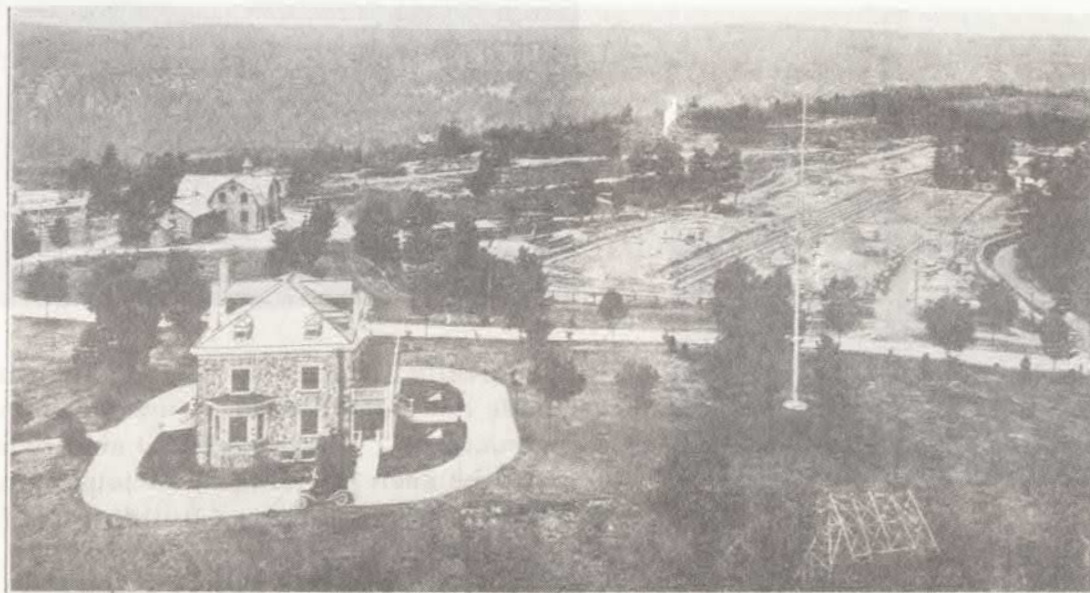
That boating was an enthusiastic activity in the 1920s cannot only be seen in the photograph of the rowers, but in this old photograph (the date of which is unknown) of the "Boat House" on the shores of Picatinny Lake. This same structure can be seen in the lower right corner of the "Picatinny Peak" picture postcard. To the left of the Boat House, some several hundred feet, was the original site of the Middle Forge.



Boat House

The Naval Presence

In April 1891, some eleven years after Picatinny Arsenal was officially chartered as an Army powder depot, 315 acres were transferred to the Navy Department for "magazine purposes." There was only one stipulation by Secretary of War Redfield Proctor in the transfer: "The Navy Department shall not locate any of its magazines or store-houses or filling rooms for explosives nearer to the War Department magazines than are the War Department magazines to each other." In June 1891, Commander J. B. Coghlan was sent by the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance to take charge "of the erection of the naval magazines and other structures upon the reservation transferred by Act of Congress..." The presence of the Navy at what is now the ARDC site was to last 69 years, from the US Naval Powder Depot to the US Naval Air Rocket Test Station. In 1960, the Navy Department decommissioned this installation. Shown in the photograph is the construction of the original buildings of the area which came to be known as "Navy Hill." In the left foreground is the naval commander's house; in the left background (of Dutch colonial design) is the building which today houses this site's firefighting unit. Toward the right is a flagpole which looks like the mast of a ship and at the extreme right is the entrance which demarks the southeast boundary of this government reservation, Lake Denmark Road.



GENERAL VIEW, NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, LAKE DENMARK, N. J.

The 1926 Explosion

In the late afternoon of 10 July 1926, there was a severe electrical storm at the Lake Denmark area of the then US Navy Powder Depot adjacent to Picatinny Arsenal. At 5:15 pm, lightning struck and seconds later black smoke was seen rising from the northeast side of Temporary Magazine No. 8. The fire alarm was sounded and personnel were on the scene playing a stream of water on the blaze when a tremendous detonation occurred. This was followed by two more serious explosions--Temporary Storehouse No. 9 and Shell Storehouse No. 22--which devastated the area.



B-106#35 July 20, 1926

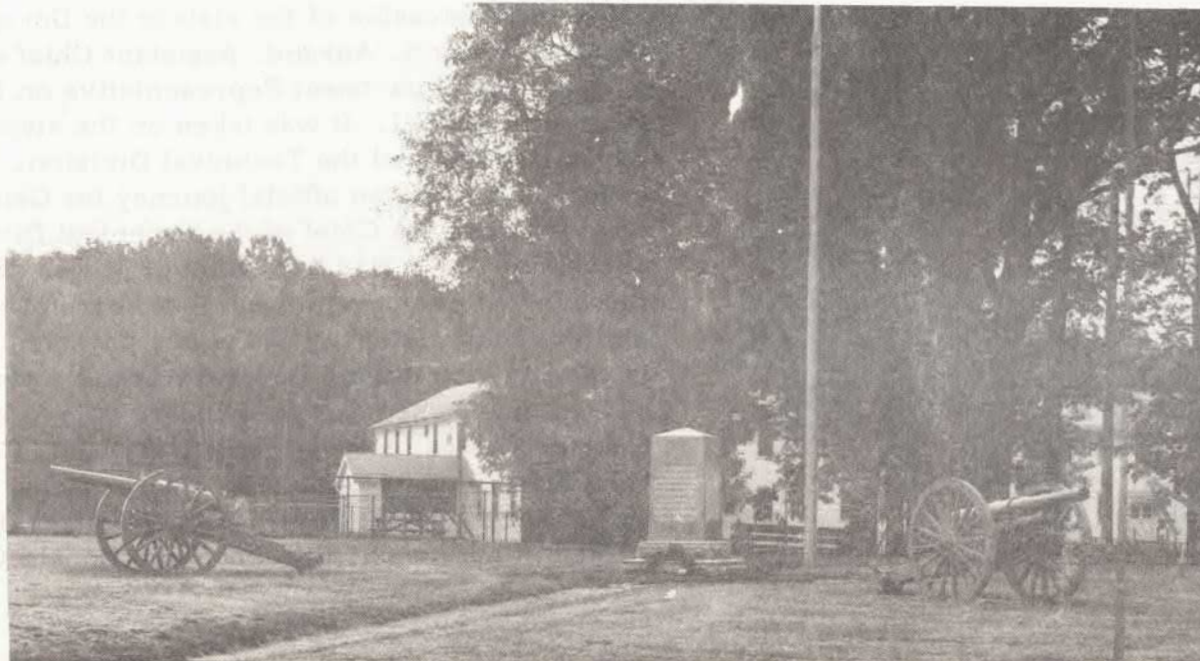
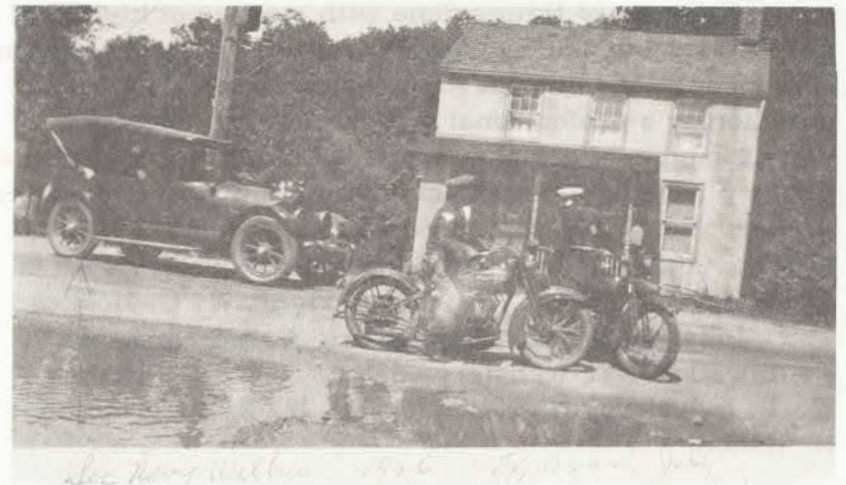
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Ironically, to prevent just such an incident, lightning rods had been placed at powder storage areas and structures. These impotent sentinals of the past can still be seen standing at various places on the installation, such as unused Building 3137.

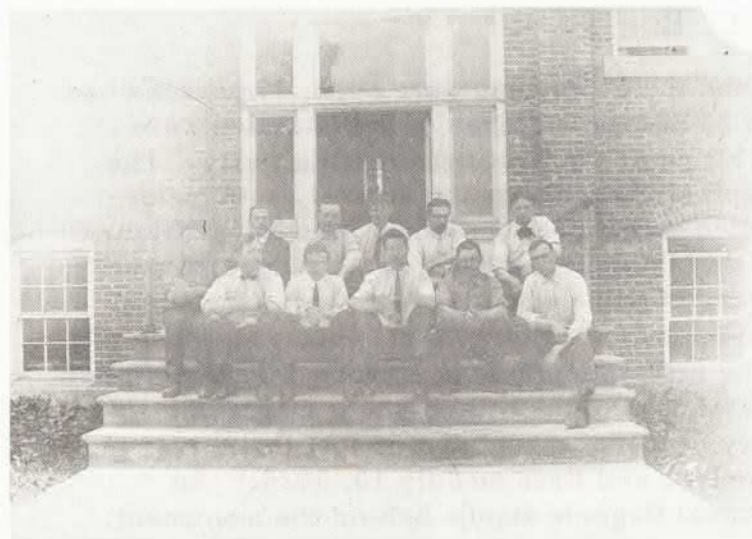
The Aftermath

When the explosions were over, 19 persons had died and 38 injured. Eleven of the fatalities were Marines killed in the first fire-fighting party. The photograph at right shows the arrival, with motorcycle police escort, of Secretary of the Navy Wilbur the next day to inspect the damage. To perpetuate the bravery of those who died that day, a memorial was built opposite Building 3050 (photograph below). Part of the inscription reads: "Erected by the officers and enlisted men of the United States Marine Corps in memory of their associates who lost their lives in the explosions and fires on July 10, 1926." An unused naval flagpole stands behind the monument.

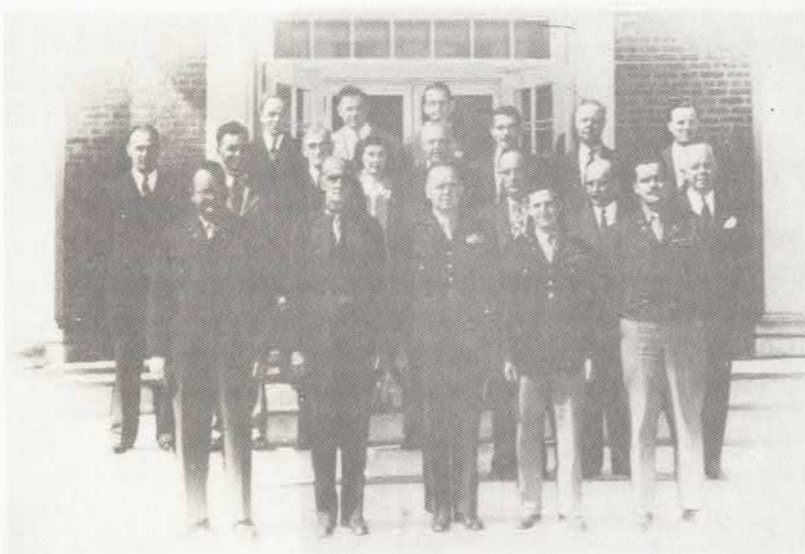


The Staff

Seldom are things done with a sense of historical awareness, but the "group photograph" is the exception. It is a conscious attempt to pictorially record an event, occasion or a professional or personal tie. Here are two examples, informal and formal, of a Picatinny Arsenal group photograph which achieved its purpose: historical preservation. The top photo was taken in 1913 in front of Bldg. 162S. It is of the Chemical Laboratory staff of 11 employees. Front row, left to right, W. C. Hoskey, J. J. Johnson, W. H. Thoburn, H. A. Mereness, F. A. Aspinwall, G. E. Webster; back row, C. R. Franklin, W. T. Ingraham, W. L. Anderson, W. R. Ranson and H. Hance.



The bottom group was photographed either in 1947 or 1948 on the occasion of the visit to the Dover site of Major General Henry S. Aurand, Assistant Chief of Staff for R&D and the War Department Representative on the National Research Council. It was taken on the steps of Bldg. 171, which then housed the Technical Division. It was a sentimental as well as an official journey for General Aurand, who had been the Chief of the Technical Division in the years preceding World War II. Although it was determined that those in the photograph were "members of the present Military Staff and many of the key personnel who were active in the Division during General Aurand's period of service at Picatinny Arsenal," not all were able to be identified: Colonel William Larned, General Aurand, Colonel Dutton, John King, Peter Moglia, Dr. George Hale, Frank Sommers, Julia Burns, Dewitt Sager, Alfred Teitscheid, William Lukens, William Rinkenbach, Roy Wood and Donald Cameron.



The Staff

During World War II, Picatinny Arsenal was a major munitions production center because at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack (7 December 1941) there was no other plant in the country capable of producing anything larger than small arms ammunition. While industry was converting to war production, this ordnance installation had been producing large quantities of ordnance materiel on a pilot-plant basis. During World War II, more than 8,000 men and women were trained at this installation in the techniques of mass producing munitions, and some 20,000 persons involved in ordnance work visited here. This 1945 photograph typifies a scene of that era.



T123E1 Fuze Conveyor Line, Building 321



Had any employee been in chemistry work in earlier years their supervisor would have been this distinguished gentleman, Dr. Otto F. Ansell, who was the Chief Chemist of Picatinny Arsenal from 1907-1911.

Homes



Commanding Officer's Quarters.

It is now "Quarters 112" and the home of several generals that were stationed here. The structure was started in October 1908 and was completed in January 1911 at a cost of \$40,000. The facade is puddingstone and granite, quarried locally. In recent years, a plaque was put up on an interior wall which lists its previous residents, beginning with Major O. C. Horney, the 10th commander of Picatinny Arsenal, who served from 1907 to 1915. Because of the rank of those who occupied it, Quarters 112 became known as "the General's house." Its interesting hybrid architecture reflects different adaptations of the American experience in home building.

The year of this photograph of Quarters 112 (upper left) is unknown as are the dates of the photographs of the two "Assistant Officer's Quarters." Building numbers were often changed without notation or records lost or destroyed. Sometimes, entire facades were redone so that the structures' original configurations changed.



Assistant Officer's Quarters.



Assistant Officer's Quarters.



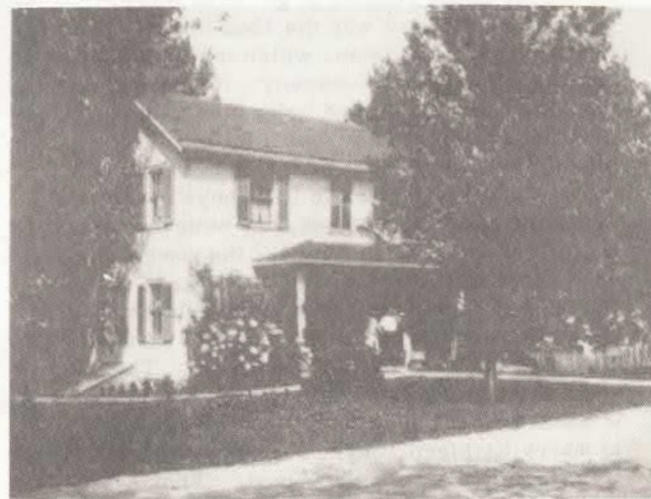
Lieut. Col. Odus C. Horney,
Commanding Officer.

Homes and Their Occupants

Portrait of Odus C. Horney--the first resident of Quarters 112--after his promotion to lieutenant colonel. This officer set a distinguished mark as Commander of Picatinny Arsenal. During his tenure two factories were built, one for Explosive D and one for powder for .30-caliber ammunition; also established was a school for training officers in the chemistry of explosives and interior ballistics--helping to change this post from a storage depot to an ordnance installation.

Because there was no public transportation to the Headquarters site, employees often lived on post. Pictured are examples of two employees' dwellings (probably built before the federal government purchased the various tracts which were originally farms).

This arrangement probably changed with the advent of public transportation. According to an account in the 14 March 1947 issue of the Picatinny News, Granville E. Webster, a chemist with 35 years service with Picatinny's laboratories, wrote: "Wharton was the only place from which the Arsenal was easily accessible by public conveyance in 1912. Wharton was the southern terminal of the Wharton & Northern Railroad, which ran to Charlottesville, a distance of about 20 miles. There was no other public conveyance... For employees who lived in Dover, it was necessary to get down on Blackwell Street at 7:15 in the morning in order to catch the trolley car to Wharton and meet the train leaving for the Arsenal... It was some distance for many employees to walk from their residence to the trolley line on Blackwell Street."



Employees' Dwellings.



Families at Picatinny

During World War I, this post was site for troops being readied to go "over there." The major unit here was the 42nd Infantry Regiment, 12th Division, which included the 2nd Ordnance Guard Company. However, the Armistice was signed before the 12th Division could get to Europe. In this 1918 photograph are the men of the 2nd Ordnance Guard Company. The two little boys in uniform, the company mascots, are believed to be sons of LtCol R. W. Pinger, the commander of Picatinny Arsenal, and Lt Edward Troub, the company's officer. One of the soldiers in the ranks was Carl L. Butts, then 22 years old, who came from Hagerstown, MD. This wartime scene reflects not only the history of an Army post but a family. Pvt Butts was to marry Kathleen Toker, 16, whose father was employed and lived on post. (Photograph donated by Mrs. Kathleen Toker Butts.)



Besides living on post, Kathleen Toker and her sisters also attended school on the grounds. From 1913 to 1917, Rockaway Township maintained a primary school in what is now Quarters 115, across from the present Headquarters building. School No. 7 was for children of military personnel and employees who lived on this federal reservation. Mrs. Horney, the commander's wife, took this photograph in 1913. She gave a copy to each pupil. One teacher presided over the one-room schoolhouse in which she taught four grades (1-4). Pictured are: Miss Maude Lyon, left to right, sitting: Anna Wass, Molly Toker, Alice Rowe, Billy Radmore, Ella Toker, John Sexton, Arthur William, Kathleen Toker; middle row, Elwin Williams, Margaret Sexton, Edward Alexander, May Radmore, Margaret O'Connor, Arthur Wass; back row, Ester Horney, John King, Alfred Wass, James Stickle, Herbert Alexander, Odus Horney and Eleanor Parker.



Families at Picatinny

Baseball was a popular sport at this installation during the World War I period so much so that there were several teams. This was also due to the number of military units training at Picatinny Arsenal preparing to go overseas. The players were not amateurs, but semi-pros because they were paid. For example, in this team photograph of the "Lucas Athletic Club," were soldiers from the 2nd Ordnance Guard Company, sponsored by a Lt Lucas. Their record in the Picatinny Twilight League in June 1919 was 8-4. Also, in the photograph are Lieutenant Colonel Pinger, the commanding officer of Picatinny Arsenal, and Carl L. Butts who married Kathleen Toker. From left to right, standing (no first names available) are Paul, Whitfield, Roper, Hunter, Kelly and Bohler; middle row, Long, Captain Davis, W. Baker, Lt Lucas, LtCol Pinger, Captain White, Norton, Rogers, and front row, A. Baker, Butts, James White (the mascot), Smith and Minichback. (Photograph from the 14 June 1919 issue of the Picatinny Magazine.)

In 1919, Kathleen Toker and Carl Butts were married in St. Mary's Church in Mine Hill. Several years later, the couple moved to Maryland, returned to New Jersey and then settled for many years in a Boston suburb. He died in 1956. Her son, James, a World War II veteran, works here and Mrs. Butts now lives with her youngest daughter in Morris County.

LUCAS ATHLETIC CLUB



Kathleen Toker's father, Matthew, prime jobs were to care for the stables and horses, and convey officers to and from Picatinny Arsenal. A year before the Toker family was to leave this installation (he took a job at the Mount Hope Ironworks), an unusual incident occurred. According to the Dover Advance of 25 March 1918: "A train on the Wharton & Northern Railroad left the track about a mile east of Picatinny Arsenal Saturday evening and partly overturned in a swamp alongside the track, doing considerable damage to the track and engine. Two passenger coaches filled with employees returning from the Arsenal also went off the track, but no one was injured except the fireman, Charles Biernot, of Rockaway, who was in the engine cab. He was bruised about the body. Worth Schultz was the engineer and the cause of the wreck is unknown."

Families at Picatinny

Four alumni of School No. 7 were reunited in their old classroom in this Centennial year of 1980 in the very room they attended class. They are: (left to right) Ella Toker Hancock, Kathleen Toker Butts, Alice Rowe McLennan (whose desk was in the very spot she is standing) and Margaret Sexton Guinter. It was a happy occasion, for most part, particularly for Mrs. Butts, who admitted it felt good to return and relive an important phase of her life. "It (Picatinny) always was a beautiful place," she said, recalling the rolling, wooded acres and winding roads. For Mrs. McLennan, who has four generations of the Picatinny connection, it was with mixed feelings. In 1881, her maternal grandfather, Abraham Sickles, was a laborer on Magazine No. 1 and on the grounds and roads; her father, William C. Rowe, was part of a railroad crew when he was fatally injured in 1946; her husband, Robert McLennan Sr., was chief of buildings and roads for 38 years; and her son, Robert McLennan Jr., is presently a museum curator.

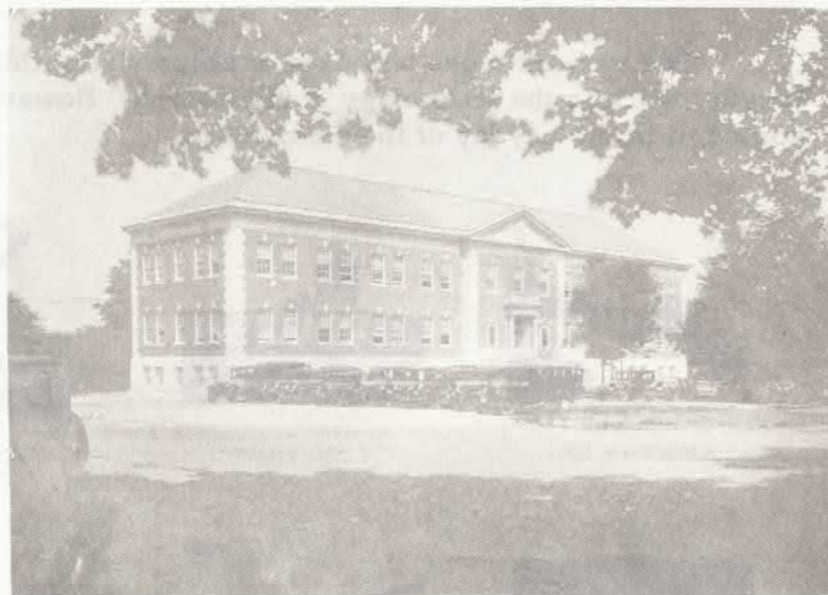
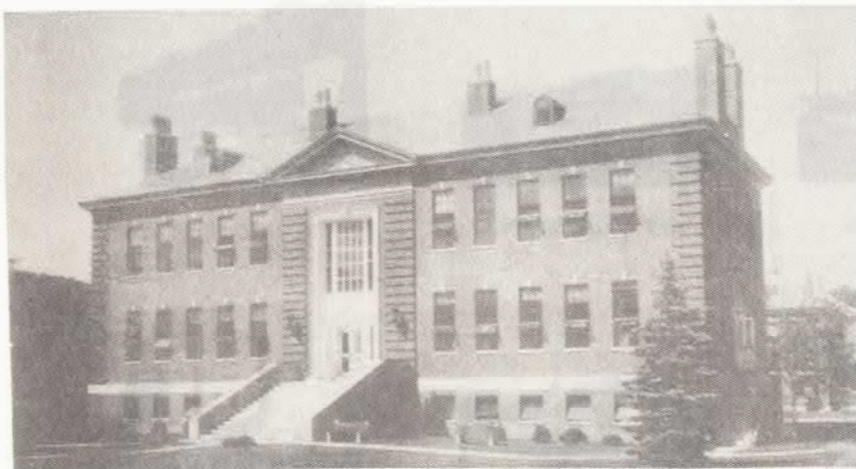


When Picatinny Arsenal expanded on the eve of World War II to its present Main Gate, this installation absorbed the hamlet of Spicertown, an unincorporated village of Rockaway Township. Past the Main Gate, on a road to the left, stands a house (now Quarters 1125) built in 1929 by Clyde W. Cook, whose wife was Reba L. Spicer, a descendent of the original owner. (The couple was employed at this post and were wed in June 1919.) In this circa 1930 photograph, John Spicer with his two grandchildren, Marian and Robert Cook. John was the son of Mary and Lewis Spicer, who in 1881 sold the federal government a 50-foot strip of land as a "wagon road or highway" leading from the Cannon Gate to the Union Turnpike, a toll road (now Route 15). This access thoroughfare came to be known as "Government Road." (The photograph was donated by Mrs. Sally Cook O'Reurke, who was born in Quarters 1125.)



Landmark Buildings and Activities

The first "Administration" building (117) was near Picatinny Lake. It was destroyed in the 1926 Explosion. The next Headquarters structure (Bldg. 151) was built in 1929 as part of a modernization program. Bldg. 151 served as the focal point of this installation for more than a half-century (until Bldg. 1 was completed in 1982). Inside, on inscribed plaques, are the names of the commanders of this post and length of their tenure. The photograph (right) was taken in the early 1930s and through the trees to the right were clay tennis courts.



Arthur B. Schilling. Today, the ARDC Museum houses some 14,000 items: American and foreign ordnance as well as artifacts and documents dealing with the history of this Army post.



Industrial Structures

The various types and uses of industrial buildings in the history of Picatinny Arsenal would constitute a lengthy work in the technology of explosives. However, presented is a diversity of these structures as they appeared in the heyday of their existence.



POWDER FACTORY



BAG LOADING



CANNON BLENDER



PACKING HOUSE



SMALL ARMS
POWDER BLENDER



FOREGROUND - TESTING AREA
MIDDLE DISTANCE - PRIMER &
FUZE LOADING AREA



NEW MELT LOADING PLANT



MACHINE SHOPS



LOWER MAGAZINE AREA



SOLVENT RECOVERY BUILDING



HIGH EXPLOSIVES EXPERIMENTAL
PLANT



PYROTECHNIC AREA



PRESENT TETERYL PLANT



STOREHOUSE NO. 5



POWER PLANT

Full Circle

This booklet, which began with A REMEMBRANCE OF THE PAST, brings us to A RECOGNITION BY THE PRESENT. At Frankford Arsenal, there was a "Saratoga Park," which displayed two cannons captured from the British at the battle of Saratoga, NY, during the Revolutionary War. Frankford Arsenal was closed in 1977 and the two Saratoga guns were sent to other Army posts. However, since ARRADCOM acquired the missions of the Philadelphia installation, it was decided to replicate Saratoga Park at the main entrance to Picatinny Arsenal. The two original cannons have been replaced with two of the Civil War era and the plaque reads: "Saratoga Park--Built during the command of Colonel James L. Wallace to provide a memorial to the dedicated men and women of Frankford Arsenal and a showcase for the famous Saratoga cannon--Dedicated 18 June 1978."





Overview

Aerial view of the center of Picatinny Arsenal taken in the 1950s. The thoroughfare traversing the photograph is Parker Road, which leads from the Main Gate to the former Headquarters building. In front of Bldg. 151, just below the flagpole, shrouded by trees, is Quarters 115, at one time Rock-away Township School No. 7. At the extreme left is Quarters 114, which was the home of the Commanding Officer of Picatinny Arsenal before the establishment of ARRADCOM. The street in front of the Headquarters building is Farley Avenue, named for the second commander of this Army post. To the right on this street is the Bldg. 162 complex, formerly the "Picatinny Laboratory," the Officers Club and directly across, obscured by the trees, Bldg. 118, for many decades the Civilian Personnel building through which all civilian employees--entering and leaving--were processed. In the upper left is Picatinny Lake with various but obsolete industrial structures on its rim. In the upper right is the area once the US Naval Rocket Testing Station. The level expanse in front is the golf course and the bridge (right front) spans the Green Pond Brook which flows through this federal reservation.

Outside the Gates

Through the hundred years since its establishment, this installation has always had close ties with neighboring communities. Such was this relationship that when Armed Forces Day was celebrated on 20 May 1950 it was arranged by the Morris County Citizens Committee and became a week-long affair attended by many military and civilian dignitaries, including Governor Alfred E. Driscoll. The highlight was a Saturday parade through the main street of Dover, with Colonel John P. Harris, the Commanding Officer of Picatinny Arsenal, acting as the Grand Marshall of the Armed Forces Day Parade. He can be seen at the extreme right of the reviewing stand. (In 1975, Colonel Harris was to be inducted into the Ordnance Hall of Fame at Aberdeen Proving Ground--the first man from this post to receive this honor.) At 10 minutes to 2 p.m. (the time affixed by the street clock in the right background), rolling down Blackwell Street in their Shermans was the 113th Tank Battalion, a nearby National Guard Unit. The enthusiasm of the civilian segments can be seen in the long line of marchers and the large crowd the event attracted.



State of New Jersey



GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

By Assemblymen BARRY, ALBOHN, D. GALLO and
Assemblywoman CURRAN

Adopted April 21, 1980

WHEREAS, The year 1980 marks the centennial of the Picatinny Arsenal in the town of Dover in the county of Morris; and,

WHEREAS, On September 6, 1880, the United States War Department issued Special Order Number 189 that established the "Dover Powder Depot," renamed four days later the "Picatinny Powder Depot"; and, in 1907, the Army constructed at this site its first powder factory whose expanding activities led to the post becoming known later that year as "Picatinny Arsenal"; and,

WHEREAS, Picatinny serves today as the headquarters for the United States Army Armament Research and Development Command and employs 6,000 highly skilled technicians, scientists, and engineers engaged in the full range of armament research and development; and,

WHEREAS, For an entire century, this installation has supported in a most distinguished manner the Armed Forces of the United States of America with ordnance material vital to the nation's defense; and,

WHEREAS, Picatinny's activities have typified the successful, combined contribution of military and civilian personnel to the security of the country and this combined effort illustrates the fundamental principles upon which the republic was founded; now, therefore,
Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this House hereby extend its congratulations to Picatinny Arsenal upon its first 100 years, pay tribute to the men and women who compose its staff, and send best wishes for the continuation of this installation's patriotic work; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk, be transmitted to Major General Allen H. Light, Commander of the United States Armament Research and Development Command.

Attest: -

Christopher J. Fachman
Speaker of the General Assembly.

Jo Miller
Clerk of the General Assembly.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, In 1880, Department of the Army Special Order Number 189, directed military officials to establish the Dover Powder Depot in Morris County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, for an entire century this depot, known as the Picatinny Arsenal, has supported the armed forces of the United States with the creation, manufacture and distribution of ordnance materials vital to this Nation's security, and, has grown over the years to its present status as a major armament research and development center for the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, during World War Two, Picatinny Arsenal became a vital center for the production of ordnance employing over 10,000 military, civilians and scientists, training over 8,000 other personnel in the specialized techniques of munitions mass production, and, following that global conflict became the Headquarters for the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command; and

WHEREAS, the Picatinny Arsenal remains an essential part of the civic and economic life of the Garden State, typifying the combined contributions of civilian citizens and the military to the national defense of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRENDAN BYRNE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

SEPTEMBER 6, 1980

as

CENTENNIAL OF PICATINNY

In New Jersey, recognizing the unique contributions of the Picatinny Arsenal and the United States Army to the history of the Garden State and to the continuing social and economic life of our State.



BY THE GOVERNOR:

DEBORAH L. HARRIS, SECRETARY OF STATE

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this nineteenth day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty and of the Independence and of the United States, the two hundred and fourth.

GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

CENTENNIAL OF PICATINNY

WHEREAS, Department of the Army Special Order No. 189 dated 6 September 1880 established an Army powder depot on this site in Morris County, New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, this same site has been identified as Picatinny Arsenal during most of the past one-hundred years, and

WHEREAS, the year nineteen-hundred and eighty marks the one-hundredth anniversary of this installation, and

WHEREAS, for an entire century, this Picatinny installation has supported in a most distinguished manner the Armed Forces of the United States of America with ordnance materiel vital to this Nation's defense, and

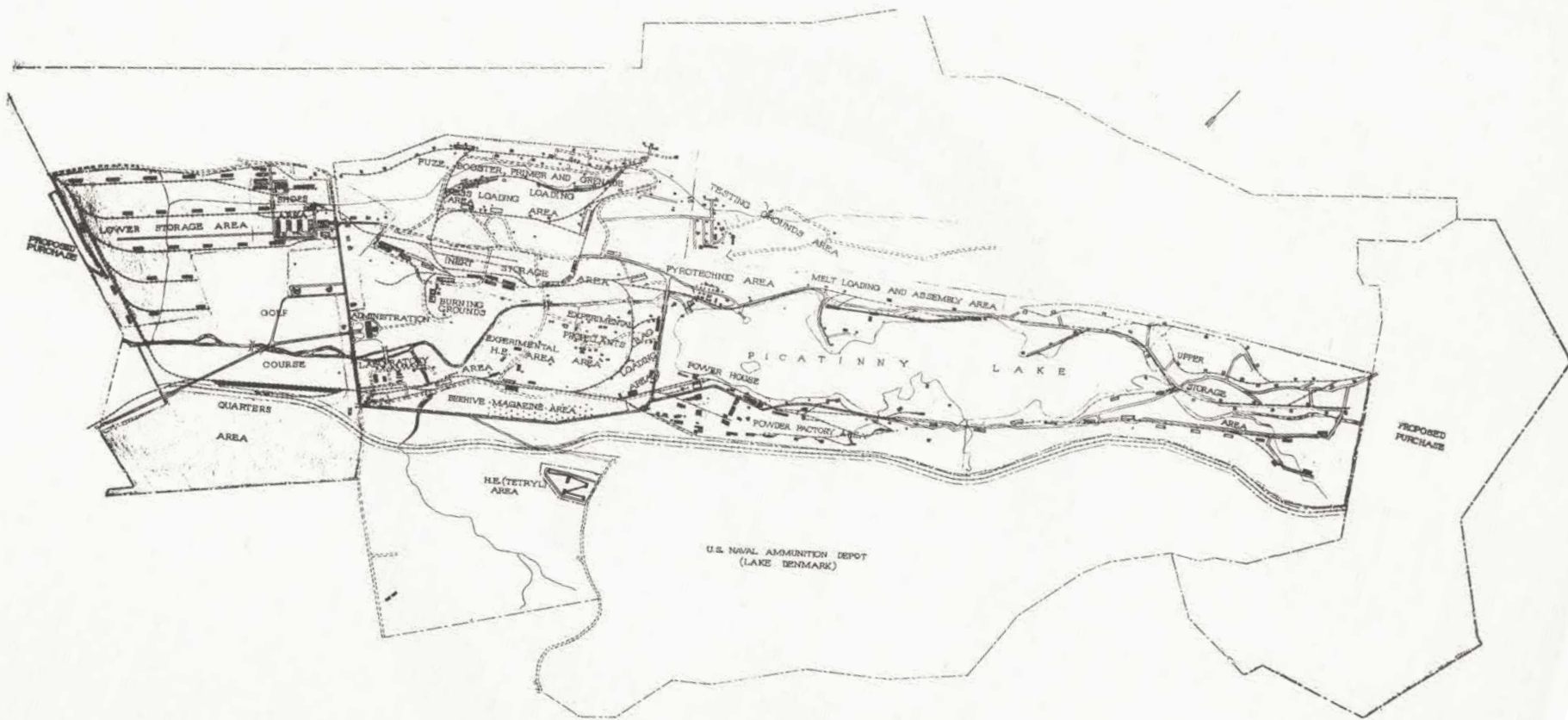
WHEREAS, Picatinny's activities have typified the successful, combined contribution of military and civilian personnel to the national defense of the United States of America, and
WHEREAS, this combined effort illustrates the fundamental principles upon which this Republic was founded,

I, MAJOR GENERAL ALLEN H. LIGHT, JR., Commander of the United States Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM), headquarters at Dover, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim the period of celebration for the Centennial of Picatinny to be January through September 1980.

FURTHER, I ask each segment of this Picatinny community to support, contribute to and participate in all special events and ceremonies scheduled throughout the celebration period.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereby affix my signature on the Twelfth Day of December 1979.

Allen H. Light, Jr.
ALLEN H. LIGHT, JR.
Major General, USA
Commanding



LEGEND
 ——— CONCRETE ROADS
 - - - - - CINDER ROADS
 - - - - - DIRT ROADS
 - - - - - BOUNDARY LINE
 - - - - - FENCE
 ■ NEW BUILDINGS
 □ REHABILITATED BUILDINGS

MAP
 OF
PICATINNY ARSENAL
 DOVER,
 N.J.
 SCALE

